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GREECE

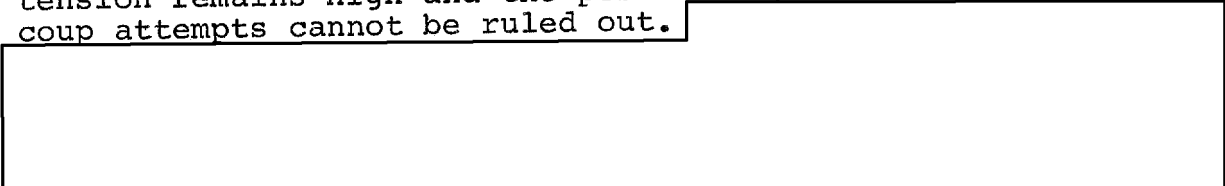
The armed forces and gendarmerie went on alert yesterday in response to an apparent coup attempt.

Defense Minister Averoff informed the US ambassador that some irresponsible junior officers in the army were causing trouble. Averoff said that although he did not believe the coup plotting should be taken too seriously, he felt the alert was prudent. The US defense attaché reported that, [redacted] some navy and army personnel were in "open verbal revolt against the government." 25X1 DIA



Averoff has promised severe measures against those officers involved, thus revitalizing efforts to eliminate remaining junta supporters in the military. The government claims that the situation is under control, but tension remains high and the possibility of additional coup attempts cannot be ruled out. [redacted]

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CYPRUS

While the UN Security Council continues its debate on the crisis arising from the declaration of a "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus," the Turkish Cypriot constituent assembly yesterday began deliberations on a constitution.

The constitution will be completed within 45 days, after which it will be submitted to a referendum. A high Turkish Cypriot official told the US ambassador last week that the outline of the constitution was drafted in Ankara and that it provides for a strong presidential system. The official believes that two parties--one supporting Rauf Denktash and one opposed to him--will contest the elections scheduled to follow the referendum.

According to the official, Ankara is pressing Denktash to give up his role as negotiator for the Turkish Cypriots in future intercommunal talks. Ankara maintains that Denktash's new position as president of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus makes it improper for him to participate in negotiations with Greek Cypriot negotiator Clerides, who holds a lower official post.

The Security Council deliberations suggest that agreement may be reached on a change of venue for the talks and their possible expansion to include Greek and Turkish representatives as well as other participants. Such a move would lessen the impact of Denktash's non-participation if he were to give up his role as negotiator.

Meanwhile, Ankara announced yesterday that the Turkish navy would not participate in a scheduled NATO naval exercise this week. The Turks claimed that "technical reasons" had forced their withdrawal from the exercise, but their decision is more likely a further reaction to the halt in US military assistance. Actions such as this allow Ankara to demonstrate its pique over the aid cutoff without seriously affecting its NATO relationship.

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IRAN-PAKISTAN

The Shah of Iran is scheduled to begin a three-day visit to neighboring Pakistan today. His purpose is to reaffirm the close ties between the two countries and to demonstrate his continued support for Prime Minister Bhutto's government.

Fearing that an unstable Pakistan would be susceptible to manipulation by the Soviets, who already enjoy strong influence in India, Afghanistan, and Iraq, the Shah wants Pakistan to remain friendly and politically stable. He is particularly interested in seeing Pakistan control dissident tribesmen in its frontier provinces. One of these provinces, Baluchistan, borders on Iran, which has a large Baluchi minority of its own.

The Shah has occasionally been annoyed with various Pakistani foreign policy positions, such as Bhutto's close ties to Libya's President Qadhafi, no friend of the Iranian leader. Nonetheless, the Shah's conviction that Pakistan's stability and security are essential to Iran has generally led him to support Islamabad.

Pakistan, for its part, is anxious to continue receiving Iranian economic assistance. Islamabad also wants to retain Iranian backing in its long-standing quarrels with India and Afghanistan. Bhutto wants to be sure that improvements last year in Tehran's relations with New Delhi and Kabul do not signify any lessening in Iran's support for Pakistan. He views his meetings with the Shah as important symbols of Iranian interest. The two leaders last met four months ago in Tehran.

Iran last year committed around \$600 million in aid to Pakistan, about \$250 million of which has been disbursed so far. A joint ministerial commission on economic cooperation was also created.

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INDIA

Prime Minister Gandhi announced an agreement yesterday that restores Kashmiri nationalist leader Sheikh Abdullah as head of the state government in Indian-controlled Kashmir. In return, Abdullah has endorsed Indian sovereignty over the state. New Delhi deposed the Sheikh 22 years ago for advocating a plebiscite in which the predominantly Muslim state would choose independence or union with India or Pakistan.

To demonstrate its opposition to the deal, Pakistan, which has long called for self-determination for Kashmir, plans a protest strike on Friday by Pakistanis throughout the world. Islamabad apparently is seeking primarily to satisfy domestic anti-Indian elements, however, and does not want more than a temporary halt in movement toward normalization of Indo-Pakistani relations.

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USSR-CHINA

Soviet spokesmen continue to take the line that there is little hope for progress in the current round of border negotiations in Peking.

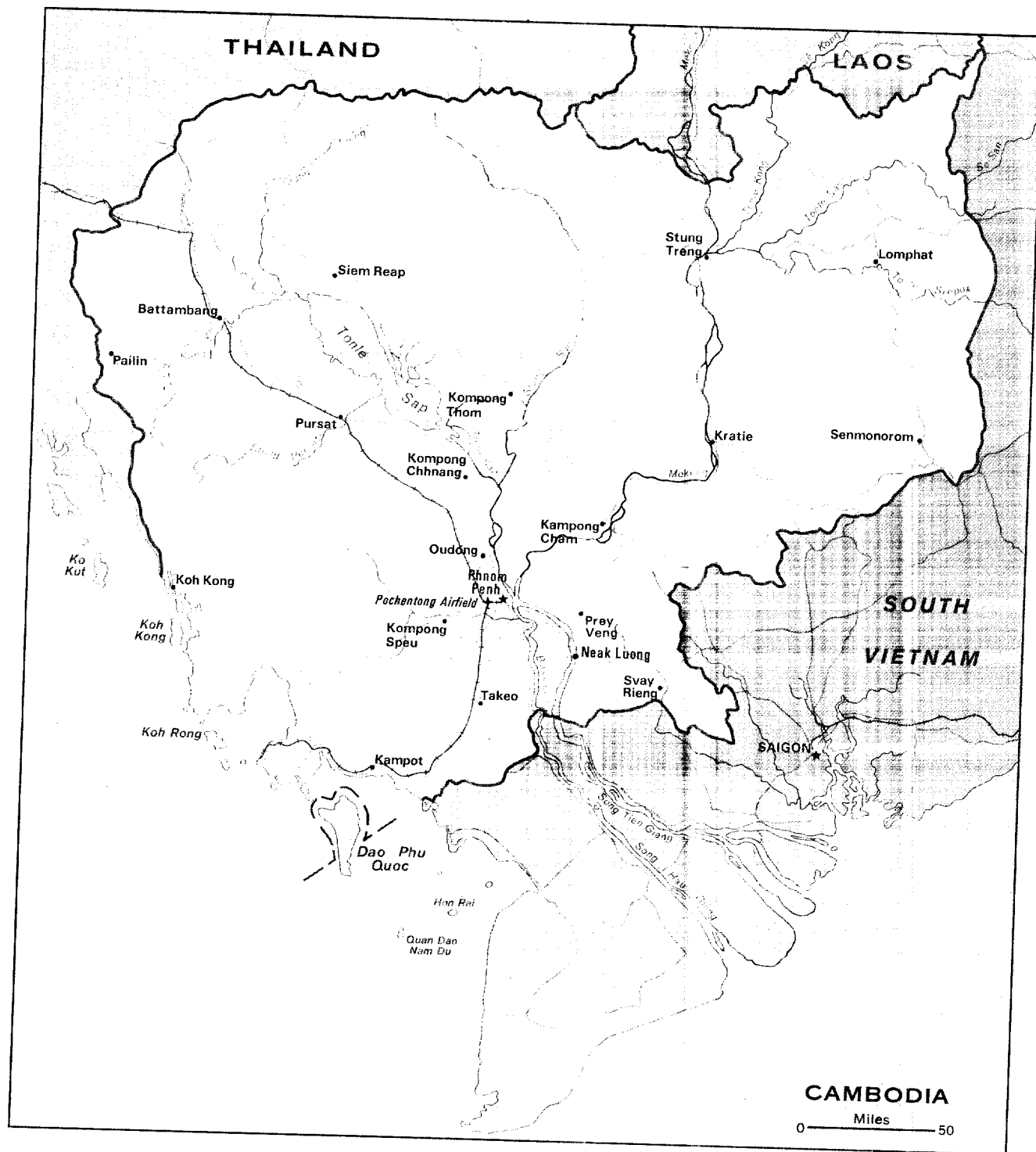
In conversations with US officials in Peking late last week, the Soviet ambassador to China and his deputy took pains to de-emphasize the importance of the recent return to China of Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, the USSR's chief negotiator. They said that Ilichev, who previously had not been in Peking for six months, returns from time to time only to see if China has any new proposals. The chief Chinese negotiator's recent departure for Nepal is another sign that the talks are not going very far very fast.

Soviet attacks on the Chinese National People's Congress have been persistent and wide-ranging, and two editorial articles in Pravda this month have stressed the theme of Maoist hostility toward the Soviet Union, going so far as to claim that the Chinese leaders are actively promoting a nuclear war between the US and the USSR. Soviet media have not yet commented on Premier Chou En-lai's remarks on the border dispute in his speech to the National People's Congress.

The Soviets are obviously worried about the possibility of an improvement in China's relations with the US and Western Europe. In a lengthy article by a leading Soviet sinologist that appeared in the January issue of the prominent Soviet academic journal USA, the author attacked those in the US who seek closer relations with China and deplored what he perceives as efforts by the US to exploit Sino-Soviet differences for its own benefit. The article seems to blur, although not eliminate, the usual Soviet distinction between the anti-detente (and pro-Chinese) forces in the US and those in the US government. It suggests that the Soviets already are concerned about the consequences of President Ford's projected trip to China.

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CAMBODIA

Khmer Communists have dislodged government troops from an island in the Mekong River just north of Neak Luong navy base and are exerting heavy pressure on the base and two remaining shore positions to the south. The government plans to launch operations to regain its positions on the island.

Government clearing operations to reopen Route 1 southeast of Phnom Penh have bogged down. In addition, the planned movement of two battalions to reinforce operations along the lower Mekong is being delayed by Communist attacks against Neak Luong. Preparations are under way for another northbound Mekong River convoy, tentatively scheduled for early March.

Daily rocket attacks against Pochentong Airfield are not causing serious damage or disrupting aerial resupply at the capital. Air deliveries of ammunition have eased critically low reserves, but do not eliminate the need to reopen the vitally important Mekong River. Expansion of the airlift to include petroleum products and rice is scheduled to begin late this week in order to offset the dwindling stocks on hand.

Some increase in Communist pressure in the provinces is apparently intended to restrict the movement of government troops to more critical battle areas. A refugee resettlement center near Kompong Chhnang was the target of such pressure when it was destroyed, leaving some 1,000 inhabitants homeless. To the northwest, insurgent forces now control Muong Russei district capital, northwest of Pursat on Route 5. Government efforts to retake the town are progressing slowly.

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OPEC

The oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Vienna today to prepare for the OPEC summit meeting scheduled to begin March 4 in Algiers. Their primary task is to draw up a list of topics to be discussed at the summit, largely in preparation for the subsequent conference of oil producers and consumers.

Kuwait has specifically requested that the ministers discuss the dollar's recent decline relative to most other major currencies. Kuwait, Iran, and Algeria, according to press reports, are sponsoring a plan to apportion production cutbacks among OPEC members to help maintain current prices. Other issues that may be taken up include methods for recycling excess revenue and means of protecting the purchasing power of oil through a commodity-indexing scheme.

The oil ministers are unlikely to take any immediate action on these issues, but probably will present their recommendations before the OPEC summit convenes. They are scheduled to join with OPEC foreign and finance ministers in Algiers on March 1 to set up the final agenda for the summit conference.

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FOR THE RECORD

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Bangladesh: President Mujibur Rahman yesterday decreed Bangladesh a one-party state. The new party--the Peasants, Laborers, and Peoples League--will be formed from the nucleus of Mujib's old ruling Awami League. Opposition parties, most of which are small and leftist-oriented, will probably go underground.

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Venezuela: Formal talks have begun on reversion of the largely foreign-operated petroleum industry to the state. Weekly meetings with the major US petroleum companies are expected to continue for several months. One US oil official has commented that the initial meeting last week with government representatives went "very well," and he was impressed with the "businesslike" attitude of the Venezuelan negotiating team. US petroleum representatives are relieved that the long-awaited talks have finally begun, but they acknowledge that hard bargaining lies ahead. The reversion talks with the oil companies will take place at the same time that the Venezuelan Congress is debating the terms of the government's draft nationalization measure--which President Perez will present to Congress on March 2--and the subsequent decrees setting up a state-run petroleum industry. Nationalistic sentiment in the country and the Congress, as well as Perez' current problems with the US, could complicate the negotiations.

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